

B. Claims

Please amend claim 1 as follows. Please cancel claims 4-6 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 11-13 as follows. A complete listing of all the claims appears below; this listing replaces all earlier amendments and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus that prints by scanning a print head, which has a first nozzle array for ink of a first color and a second nozzle array for ink of a second color different from the first color, with regard to a printing medium, said apparatus comprising:

a print buffer for dividing storage area into a plurality of first regions in corresponding with a scan direction of the print-head print head, each first region being divided into a plurality of second regions in correspondence with color components;

input means for sequentially inputting a plurality of block data ~~corresponding to the first regions~~, wherein the block data contains a plurality of color component data first color component data corresponding to the first color and/or second color component data corresponding to the second color and a code representing a data delimiter ~~between an end of the~~ first color component data and the second color component data, respectively, and wherein each color component data has a plurality of compressed raster data and is stored in second regions respectively;

acquisition means for reading block data from the input means and for acquiring N-bit raster data from the block data by decompressing the compressed raster data in each color component and for determining the code; and

~~conversion means for converting the raster data into column data;~~

~~transfer means for sequentially transferring the raster data acquired by said acquisition means to said conversion means;~~

~~second transfer means for sequentially transferring N column data converted by said conversion means to the print buffer;~~

~~storage control means for assigning block data to a first region of the print buffer and for storing the N column data transferred from said second transfer means in each acquired by the acquisition means in second regions of the print buffer first region on the basis of the code determined by said acquisition means; and~~

~~control means for executing transfer processing of said transfer means, transfer processing of said second transfer means, and conversion processing of said conversion means in synchronism with a predetermined signal.~~

2. – 10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data acquired by the acquisition means is column data.

12. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquisition means has decompression means for decompressing the color component data into raster data.

13. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said acquisition means has conversion means for converting the raster data into the column data.